



INTERNATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE: AZERBAIJAN DISABILITY SPORTS

APPLICATION FORM APPLICATION COVER PAGE

OVERVIEW

Sport for Development (S4D) in Azerbaijan, and the Institute for Training and Development (ITD) in the U.S. are soliciting applications for participation in an international exchange project. The project will bring thirteen Azerbaijani professionals and one escort to the U.S. for three weeks on a fully-funded trip, from September 27 to October 17, 2014. The theme of the project is sports for children with disabilities.

The Azerbaijani participants will be actively involved in learning, sports, and social activities with American counterparts and youth with disabilities. Lectures by college faculty will provide participants with U.S. historical and social background related to disability and disability sport and recreation. Discussions with disability and sports professionals will stimulate thought about public and private obligations to address this field, and about the respective value of specialized and inclusive programs. And visits to disability organizations and schools will provide direct contact with youth with disabilities and the programs that serve them.

There are two categories of Azerbaijani professionals who may apply to participate in this project: 1) Public school physical education teachers, and 2) Disability workers from private and public organizations. Physical education teachers who apply need have no prior experience with disabled children, and disability workers need have no prior experience with sports. Azerbaijani translators will be present, so no knowledge of English is necessary. And those with disabilities are welcome to apply. Their needs will be accommodated in the U.S.

Please see our press release for further information on the project. This project has received funding from the U.S. Department of State.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Applicants should be aware that participation in this exchange program represents a serious time commitment from selection beyond the trip to the U.S.

Once selected, participants must secure a valid passport, and make an application for a J1 visa from the U.S. Embassy in Baku. In addition to submitting a written application, visa applicants must attend an individual interview at the Embassy. S4D staff will facilitate the visa application process for each participant. Only those who are granted a visa may travel to the U.S.



On their return from the U.S. program in the fall of 2014, Azerbaijani participants will be required to implement a project relating to improving sports opportunities for disabled Azerbaijani children in their communities within or outside of public schools. The projects will be defined by the participants, with support and guidance from American and Azerbaijani project organizers, and will be developed during the U.S. program. ITD, through S4D, will provide small grants to participants to implement their projects once they are back home.

Azerbaijani participants will also be expected to be actively involved in the development and implementation of a two-week Azerbaijan-based program for six American participants in early 2015. The American delegation will consist of people actively involved in the U.S. program for Azerbaijanis, and work in the same fields. They will visit for two weeks, traveling to each of the six target cities and spending time with the Azerbaijani participants and their colleagues. The Americans will be expected to support the Azerbaijani delegation in implementing their projects.

More information on these activities and responsibilities will be provided during the U.S. program.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- be a physical education teacher or a disability specialist who resides or works in one of the six targeted regions of Azerbaijan: 1) Baku, 2) Sumgait, 3) Mingechevir, 4) Masalli 5) Khachmaz and 6) Sheki;
- demonstrate an understanding of project goals and objectives;
- demonstrate an expressed commitment to carrying out project activities, including implementing an action plan project after returning from the US;
- be open to change;
- have limited travel abroad experience and no previous participation in this type of program.

Other criteria that will be considered include diversity among group members, including ethnic, socio-economic, and gender diversity.

The selection process is as follows:

1. Application forms are due to Mr. Mehman Karimov no later than March 15, 2014. Applications may be submitted in hard copy or electronically. Hard copies must be mailed to Mr. Karimov at “Sport For Development” Public Union, 5, Olympic Street, Az1072, Baku. Electronic applications must be emailed to Mr. Karimov at sport4dev@gmail.com or sportfordev@yahoo.com.



2. S4D will form a Selection Committee, consisting of 3-5 people in the fields of physical education and disability services. Selection Committees will review applications and announce up to 40 semi-finalists. All applicants will be notified of their status by March 31, 2014.
3. An orientation and individual interviews for the semi-finalists will be held during the third week of April, 2014.
4. Finalists will be announced by May 15, 2014.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

To be considered complete and valid, your application must include:

Section 1: Personal Information

Section 2: Essay Question Responses

Section 3: One recommendation (this may be provided together with the rest of the application, or separately)

IMPORTANT!

Please consider all of the above information carefully before deciding to apply.
Print clearly or type. *Do not include these cover pages with the application.*

Application deadline: March 15, 2014, to the office of Sport for Development.

Questions in Azerbaijan?

Contact Mehman Karimov

Executive Director,

Sport For Development

+994 50 2506563

E-mail: sport4dev@gmail.com

*Change will not come
if we wait
for some other person
or some other time.*



**INTERNATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE:
AZERBAIJAN DISABILITY SPORTS**

APPLICATION FORM

SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

A. ABOUT YOU

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Date of birth _____ Citizenship _____

Occupation: _____

Employer (Company) _____

Supervisor _____

Work Address _____

Work Telephone _____

Job Description _____

Are you a member of any organizations or associations outside of your work or studies? If yes, please describe each organization and your role in it.



Have you traveled to the US on other exchange programs? If yes, please describe.

(Other) Prior Foreign Travel Experience (where & when) _____

Foreign language studies _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions or health concerns (allergies, etc.)?

B. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Emergency Contact _____

Relationship of this person to you (e.g. spouse, parent) _____

Emergency Contact Address _____

Emergency Contact Home Telephone _____

Emergency Contact Email _____

Emergency Contact Cell Phone _____



SECTION 2: ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please answer these questions on a separate piece of paper, with responses limited to 1-2 paragraphs per question. **THESE RESPONSES MUST BE TYPED.**

Note: We are seeking to assemble a group of Azerbaijani men and women with demonstrated interest in promoting sports for children with disabilities. Participants in the program must be willing and able to work as part of a group on the design and implementation of an action plan project related to improving disability sports in Azerbaijan.

1. What interests you about this project and exchange?
2. What experiences and what characteristics do you have that make you a good candidate for this program?
3. Is there anything else that you would like us to know about you?

SECTION 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

One recommendation is required from a colleague or supervisor, or someone else who knows you professionally. No recommendations from family members, please.

Submit a copy of the following page to each of your recommenders, together with the press release and/or the application cover page.



**INTERNATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE:
AZERBAIJAN DISABILITY SPORTS**

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Application deadline, March 15, 2014

RECOMMENDER'S NAME & SURNAME _____

CONTACT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL) _____

Thank you for agreeing to write a recommendation for an applicant for this exchange program.

Eligibility criteria for the applicants include:

- be an Azerbaijani physical education teacher or a disability specialist
- reside or work in one of the six targeted regions of Azerbaijan: 1) Baku, 2) Sumgait, 3) Mingechevir, 4) Masalli, 5) Sheki, and 6) Khachmaz.
- demonstrate an understanding of project goals and objectives;
- demonstrate an expressed commitment to carrying out project activities, including implementing an action plan project after returning from the US;
- be open to change;
- have limited travel abroad experience and no previous participation in this type of program.

Please type answers to the questions below. You may use additional pages to respond, as necessary. Please mail or deliver the recommendation to the address below, before March 15, 2014, or email it to Mr. Karimov at sport4dev@gmail.com

Mr. Mehman Karimov
"Sport For Development" Public Union
5, Olympic Street, Az1072,
Baku, Azerbaijan

Recommendations may be written in English or Azerbaijani.

